

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9305

INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN PRIORITY

USDOCOSOUTH PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO

USDEL MC

S E C R E T ATHENS 4679

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR GR

SUBJ: HOMEPORTING SUB-GROUP; FIRST MEETING

1. IN JUNE 24 MEETING, US SIDE REVIEWED USN'S SCHEDULE FOR TERMINATION OF HOMEPORTING AND GREEK SIDE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE PROJECTED TIMETABLE. GREEKS INDICATED THAT GOG WISHED TO MAKE A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING PROGRESS IN TERMINATING AND PROJECTION FOR COMPLETION, AND ASKED THAT THE SCHEDULE BE PROVIDED TO FONMIN IN WRITING. US SIDE RESPONDED THAT WHILE IT SAW NO PROBLEM WITH AN ANNOUNCEMENT, IT WOULD WISH TO CONSULT ON THE TEXT, AND INDICATED THAT HELLENIC NAVY WAS BEING FORMALLY NOTIFIED AS SHIPS DEPARTED FROM HOMEPORTED STATUS. WHEN GREEKS PRESSED FOR A WRITTEN SCHEDULE FOR FONMIN, US SIDE INDICATED IT WOULD EXAMINE THE REQUEST.

2. US SIDE EXPLAINED THE COSTS ATTENDANT TO THE TERMINATION OF HOMEPORTING, AND RESTATED THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE US

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WOULD LOOK TO THE GOG TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR LEASE

TERMINATION COSTS UNDER THE LEGAL CONCEPT OF FORCE MAJEURE. OTHER THAN QUESTIONING TO CLARIFY CERTAIN COST FIGURES, GREEKS EVINCED NO SPECIFIC REACTION BUT EVIDENTLY HAD EXPECTED THE MATTER TO ARISE.

3. GREEK SIDE INITIATED DISCUSSION OF FUTURE USE OF THE ELEFSIS PIER BY STATING THAT IT HAD REVIEWED THE POSSIBILITY OF JOINT USE OF THE ELEFSIS PIER AND DETERMINED THAT IT WAS OF ABSOLUTELY NO VALUE TO HELLENIC NAVY. THREE REASONS WERE GIVEN: THE DEBRIS FALLOUT FROM NEARBY CEMENT PLANT, LIMITED EGRESS FROM ELEFSIS BAY IN WARTIME, INCLUDING POSSIBILITY OF SHIPS BEING BOTTLED UP BY AERIAL MINELAYING, AND PURPORTED PLANS FOR "DEMILITARIZATION" OF ELEFSIS AREA. WHEN PRESSED, GREEKS STATED THAT "DEMILITARIZATION" OF ELEFSIS WOULD CONSIST SIMPLY OF TERMINATING US NAVY USE OF FACILITIES IN ELEFSIS AREA.

4. US SIDE GAVE DETAILED EXPLANATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PIER FACILITY AT ELEFSIS FOR SHIP VISITS BY UNITS OF THE SIXTH FLEET AND STRESSED ITS COMPLETE DISSOCIATION FROM PAST HOMEPORTING USE. IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE GREEK NEGOTIATORS HAD NO AUTHORITY TO DISCUSS ANY POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE USE OF THE ELEFSIS PIER. THEY RATHER RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO CONVEY THE US POSITION THROUGH AMBASSADOR CALOGERAS TO FONMIN BITSIOS, REQUESTING A WRITTEN PROPOSAL FOR THIS PURPOSE BUT GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY SAW LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION AT HIGHER LEVELS OF THE GOG.

5. MINISTER STEARNS WILL FOLLOW UP JUNE 25 PRESENTATION AND EXPLANATION OF REQUESTED WRITTEN PROPOSAL BY DISCUSSING FUTURE USE OF PIER WITH AMBASSADOR CALOGERAS. KUBISCH

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